

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A virtual file system which provides mirroring and linking of two ~~physical~~ file systems, comprising:

means for mounting components of each of said two ~~physical~~ file systems in a single directory; and

a virtual file system data structure containing elements which respectively correspond to each of the mounted components, each of said elements having an application interface data structure with two associated pointers that respectively point to application interface data structures of a corresponding component in each of said two ~~physical~~ file systems.

2. (Original) The virtual file system of claim 1, wherein said application interface data structures correspond to a vnode structure.

3. (Original) The virtual file system of claim 1, wherein said components comprise directories and files.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing files in a computer system, comprising the steps of:

mounting components of each of two ~~physical~~-file systems in a single directory, such that a copy of each component is stored in each of said two ~~physical~~ file systems;

receiving a request to perform a write operation on one of said components;
and

performing said write operation on both copies of said one component in said two ~~physical~~-file systems, respectively, in real time in response to said request.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said request designates said one component, on which the write operation is to be performed, by means of a path name that is common to both of said ~~physical~~-file systems.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the steps of performing said write operation includes the steps of acquiring a lock for each copy of said one component, and inhibiting said write operation until both locks can be acquired.

7. (Currently Amended) The virtual file system of claim 1, wherein said mounting means mounts a directory of one of said ~~physical~~-file systems to a directory of the other ~~physical~~-file system.

8. (Currently Amended) The virtual file system of claim 1 wherein said single directory functions as a single mount point for access to the components of either of said two ~~physical~~-file systems.

9. (Currently Amended) The virtual file system of claim 1 wherein the mounted components of each ~~physical~~-file system are replicated in the other ~~physical~~ file system.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said mounting step comprises mounting a directory of one of said ~~physical~~-file systems to a directory of the other ~~physical~~-file system.

11. (Previously Presented) A mirrored file system, comprising:
a first server having a first local file system and a first physical storage device associated therewith;

a second server having a second local file system and a second physical storage device associated therewith; and

a client device having a virtual file system which mounts an imported file system from said first server and an imported file system from said second server to provide a single point of access for components stored in each of said first and second local file systems.

12. (Previously Presented) The mirrored file system of claim 11, wherein said first local file system and said second local file system are each imported into said client device, and said virtual file system mounts components of each of said two imported file systems to a single directory.

13. (Previously Presented) The mirrored file system of claim 12 wherein said virtual file system contains elements which respectively correspond to each of the mounted components, each of said elements having an application interface data structure with two associated pointers that respectively point to application interface data structures of a corresponding component in each of said two imported file systems.

14. (Previously Presented) The mirrored file system of claim 11 wherein each of said first and second servers includes a virtual file system that mounts components of said server's local file system and components of the other server's local file system in a single directory.

15. (Previously Presented) The mirrored file system of claim 14 wherein the file systems that are imported into said client device comprise the virtual file systems of said first and second servers.

16. (Previously Presented) The mirrored file system of claim 14 wherein the virtual file system in each server contains elements which respectively correspond to each of the mounted components, each of said elements having an application interface data structure with two associated pointers that respectively point to application interface data structures of a corresponding component in each of said two local file systems.